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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 4, 2004

FAIR OAKS MAN INDICTED ON MAKING AND POSSESSION BOMBS

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a federal grand jury returned a two count indictment charging CHRISTOPHER M. COPELAND, 31, of Fair Oaks, California, with making and possessing pipe bombs.

This case is a joint investigation with Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) agents, parole agents with the California Department of Corrections, and the Sacramento County Sheriff's department.

The indictment alleges that on February 3, 2004, COPELAND made and possessed 3 bombs described as:

1. A cylindrical metal object wrapped in white teflon tape with two wires attached to a solar igniter inside, and filled with explosive powder;
2. A fire extinguisher with two wires protruding from the top taped to the extinguisher with black electrical tape, with one wire connected to a cigarette and a spring type mechanism and the other wire connected to a solar igniter inside, and filled with explosive powder and pellets;
3. A small metal can wrapped in duct tape with a wire protruding from the can connected to a solar igniter inside, and filled with explosive powder, staples and screws;

The indictment also alleges that COPELAND made and possessed a combination of parts designed or intended for use as a bomb, specifically, a flashlight body, a lens and bulb assembly of a flashlight with the bulb replaced with a solar igniter and black powder paste, and explosive powder.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Matthew Stegman, who is prosecuting the case, if COPELAND is convicted of the charges, he faces a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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